



## **Washington State Supports Veterans and Servicemembers in Business!**

Washington State is proud to say Thank You to Veterans and members of the National Guard, Reserve or active duty military who are also owners of small businesses.

We know Washington's small businesses are the driving force that will help pull our state and nation out of the current economic recession, and this is one way we can help them succeed.

Earlier this year the passage of SB 5041 sent a powerful message about our state's commitment to its Veterans and Servicemembers. This new law encourages state agencies, higher education institutions and municipalities to award three percent of non-competitive procurement contracts to Veteran or Servicemember Owned Businesses.

The law also asks agencies to match procurement records with WDVA's Veterans and Servicemember Owned Business Registry to establish how much purchasing is being done with these businesses.

While there is no existing database that will capture only non-competitive procurement contracts, we are excited that OMWBE has stepped forward to assist WDVA in tracking the amount of business that is being done with Veteran or Servicemember Owned Businesses. This tracking system will be nearly identical to the current OMWBE process which tracks MWBE purchases and will follow existing OMWBE timelines.

Agencies can start now, using existing tools to increase contracting / purchasing with Veteran or Servicemember Owned Businesses:

- Visit the [WDVA Business Registry](#) which has nearly 1,000 self-registered businesses and 300 WDVA Certified Businesses. (Self-registration began in 2007 when the registry was established. WDVA is now 'Certifying' all businesses as required in the new law. Certification numbers are located in the business profile on the registry.)
- GA has updated the [WEBS database](#) with a Veteran Check-Box allowing business owners to indicate in WEBS that they are Veteran or Servicemember Owned.
- OFM is designing a new payment services system that will include a Veteran or Servicemember Owned Businesses field so that this information can be reported for all payments made through the system.

WDVA is excited about the level of enthusiasm among Washington state agencies that are looking for ways to do business with Veteran or Servicemember Owned Businesses, so let us know how we can help you! Contact us at 360-725-2154 or [heidia@dva.wa.gov](mailto:heidia@dva.wa.gov).

WDVA will be acknowledging and formally recognizing those state agencies, higher education institutions and municipalities that are leading the way, starting November 2011.

Thank you in advance for supporting Veteran and Servicemember Owned Businesses.



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(360) 725-2154      *"Serving Those Who Served"*

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